

# Lebanon VAMC

N E W S L E T T E R



## Enrollment and Eligibility Issue



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## Am I a Veteran?

**YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED** how many times we are asked this question. Folks seem to have all sorts of preconceptions about what makes someone a Veteran. Fortunately, however, the answer is quite simple. If you served in the active Armed Forces of the United States, then you are a Veteran! Pure and simple.

It's not necessary to have served overseas or during a time of war. National Guard members and Reservists who have been called to active federal service are also Veterans. Age, income, race, gender, religion, creed or marital status do not matter—the only thing which does, is that you wore the uniform of an American defender. Thank you for your service!

## Am I Eligible for Care?

**ALL VETERANS ARE ELIGIBLE** to apply for VA care. Our enrollment specialists review your military service record to determine your benefit eligibility. The results are sent to you in writing. You will be assigned to a priority group based on your specific eligibility status, income, and service information you provided on the 10-10EZ form.

Your enrollment information is reviewed each year or whenever you have a life change. Your ability to remain enrolled in VA may depend on the funding that VA receives from Congress to provide your care. You will be notified in writing if VA cannot renew your enrollment for another year.

You should contact our enrollment specialists any time you have a major life change such as retirement, loss of income or housing, change in marital status or a disability condition.

**Call 1-717-228-6000 or 1-800-409-8771, ext 6000 to speak to one of our enrollment specialists!**



**VA**  
HEALTH  
CARE

Defining  
**EXCELLENCE**  
in the 21st Century

# What is Service-Connected?

**A SERVICE-CONNECTED** rating is an official ruling by VA that your illness/condition is directly related to your active military service. Service-connected ratings are established by VA Regional Offices located throughout the country.

After applying for enrollment in VA, the Veterans Benefits Administration will schedule you for a compensation and pension (C&P) physical exam to determine if you have a service-connected condition.

In addition to compensation and pension ratings, VA Regional Offices are also responsible for administering educational benefits, vocational rehabilitation, and other benefit programs, including home loans. To obtain more information or to apply for any of these benefits, contact your nearest VA Regional Office at 1-800-827-1000.



## Financial Information Copays Private Health Insurance



**BY LAW**, VA is required to verify the gross household income (Veteran, spouse and dependents, if any) of certain Veterans to evaluate their eligibility for VA health care, co-payment requirements, and enrolled priority group assignment. VA verifies a Veteran's gross household income through something called a financial assessment (Means Test).

**It's important to know that having private insurance does not prohibit someone from receiving VA care.**

VA needs to know about your health insurance. VA encourages you to maintain any health insurance plans you currently hold. VA bills private insurance companies for all non-service-connected care you receive. VA does not bill insur-

ance companies for treatment of service-connected conditions. It's important to know that having private insurance does not prohibit someone from receiving VA care. Veterans with private insurance can still receive their health care at the VA.

VA is required to bill private health insurance providers for medical care, supplies and prescriptions provided for treatment of a Veteran's non-service-connected conditions. Generally, VA cannot bill Medicare, but can bill Medicare supplemental health insurance for covered services.

Certain priority groups are required to make co-payments for their care.

As part of your VA health care, outpatient prescription medications are available. In most cases, a co-payment is required for prescriptions if they are not for treatment of a service-connected condition.

## PRIORITY Groups

The number of Veterans who can be enrolled in the health care program is determined by the amount of funding Congress gives VA each year. VA prioritizes enrollment. Once you apply for enrollment, your eligibility will be evaluated. Based on your evaluation, you will be assigned a priority group. The priority groups range from groups 1-8. Group 1 has the highest priority. At the present time, Priority 8 applicants are not being accepted for care at the VA; however, we still encourage all Veterans to apply for enrollment. Even if a Veteran is assigned to Priority Group 8, there may be a change in national or personal circumstances that will permit them to receive care.



## Agent Orange

Vietnam Veterans who believe they were exposed to the chemical Agent Orange are encouraged to have an Agent Orange exam. This exam consists of a complete physical, lab tests, and the Veteran's placement on the National Agent Orange Registry. **To obtain more information about this program, the Agent Orange EAS Coordinator may be contacted at 1-717-272-6621, ext. 4747 or toll-free at 1-800-409-8771, ext. 4747.**

## Combat Veterans

Veterans, including activated Reservists and members of the National Guard, are eligible if they served on active duty in a theatre of combat operations after November 11, 1998, and have NOT been discharged under dishonorable conditions.

**Documentation used to determine service in a theater of combat operations can include any of the following:**

- Military service documentation that reflects service in a combat theatre, or
- Receipt of combat service medals, or
- Receipt of imminent danger or hostile fire pay or tax benefits.

## Returning Veterans

If you are a recently discharged Veteran with service in a theater of combat operations (**OEF/OIF/OND**—Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn), VA can provide you with free care for 5 years from your discharge from active duty for conditions possibly related to your service, regardless of your income status.



**For information,  
please visit or contact:**

Lebanon VA Medical Center  
Building 18, Room 302,  
Call 1-717-272-6621, ext. 5954  
or 1-800-409-8771, ext. 5954



## Frequently Asked Questions

### FAQs

#### **Q: Why should I enroll?**

**A:** You should enroll to ensure that you will receive the high quality, comprehensive benefits package offered through VA's national health care system. VA offers comprehensive medical care including outpatient and inpatient services, preventive services (immunizations, screening tests, health education and training classes), primary medical care including outpatient surgery, diagnosis and treatment, mental health and substance abuse treatment, home health care, respite and hospice care, drugs and pharmaceuticals.

#### **Q: Am I eligible for medicine from the VA?**

**A:** Prescriptions must be written by a VA health care provider in order for you to receive your medicine from a VA pharmacy. You may be charged an \$8 or \$9 co-payment for each 30-day or less supply of medicine provided for treatment of a non-service-connected condition.

#### **Q: Can I get dental care?**

**A:** In general, dental benefits are limited to service-connected dental conditions, Veterans who were Prisoners of War, or Veterans who have a VA 100% service-connected disability rating.

#### **Q: I don't have health insurance, will VA still treat me?**

**A:** Yes, whether a Veteran has or does not have insurance plays no role in determining whether that individual is eligible for VA health care benefits.

#### **Q: Am I eligible for a nursing home?**

**A:** Veterans requiring nursing home care for a service-connected condition or a Veteran rated 70% service connected or more have mandatory eligibility. All other Veterans are eligible on a resource and space-available basis.

#### ELIGIBILITY OFFICE

Building 17, Room 118  
1-717-272-6621, ext. 6000  
1-800-409-8771, ext. 6000

#### OEF/OIF/OND

Building 18, Room 302  
1-717-272-6621, ext. 5954  
1-800-409-8771, ext. 5954

#### HARRISBURG VET CENTER

1500 N. Second Street  
Suite 2  
Harrisburg, PA 17102  
1-717-782-3954

#### LANCASTER VET CENTER

1817 Olde Homestead Lane  
Suite 207  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
1-717-283-0735



## Lebanon VA Medical Center

1700 South Lincoln Avenue  
Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17042

**717-272-6621**  
**1-800-409-8771**

[www.lebanon.va.gov](http://www.lebanon.va.gov)



[www.facebook.com/VALebanon](https://www.facebook.com/VALebanon)



[www.twitter.com/VALebanon](https://www.twitter.com/VALebanon)



# How to Apply for VA Health Care

**TO RECEIVE VA HEALTH CARE BENEFITS**, Veterans need to enroll. You can apply at any time by completing a form called VA Form 10-10EZ. You can receive this form by:

- Visiting or calling the Lebanon VA Eligibility office
- Visiting or calling the nearest VA health care facility, Veterans Benefits Office, or County Veterans Service Officer
- Calling Veterans Health Administration (national) toll free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387)
- Visiting the Web and download the 1010ez form at: <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>

#### When enrolling for VA health care, you will need:

- Completed Signed Application
- DD214/Discharge Papers
- Copies of Health Insurance Cards

## County Veterans Service Officers:

#### ADAMS

John P. Farrell  
717-337-9835  
[jfarrell@adamscounty.us](mailto:jfarrell@adamscounty.us)

#### BERKS

Dale Derr  
610-378-5601  
[dgderr@countyofberks.com](mailto:dgderr@countyofberks.com)

#### CUMBERLAND

Neal J. Delisanti  
717-240-6178  
[ndelisanti@ccpa.net](mailto:ndelisanti@ccpa.net)

#### DAUPHIN

Colleen Washinger  
717-780-6356  
[cwashinger@dauphinc.org](mailto:cwashinger@dauphinc.org)

#### LANCASTER

Daniel Tooth  
717-299-7920  
[dtooth@co.lancaster.pa.us](mailto:dtooth@co.lancaster.pa.us)

#### LEBANON

Robert Kale  
717-228-4422  
[rkale@lebcnty.org](mailto:rkale@lebcnty.org)

#### PERRY

Lynn Van Leaven  
717-582-2131  
[lvleaven@perryco.org](mailto:lvleaven@perryco.org)

#### SCHUYLKILL

Brenda Zechman  
570-628-1400  
[bzechman@co.schuylkill.pa.us](mailto:bzechman@co.schuylkill.pa.us)

#### YORK

Phillip Palandro  
717-771-9218  
[papalandro@york-county.org](mailto:papalandro@york-county.org)

#### PA DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS SERVICE OFFICERS

717-861-8902  
[ra-va-info@pa.gov](mailto:ra-va-info@pa.gov)

#### VETERANS BENEFIT ADMINISTRATION

Regional VA Office  
(Philadelphia)  
1-800-827-1000

#### NATIONAL VHA

Veterans Health  
Administration  
(Washington DC)  
1-877-222- VETS (8387)

#### INTERNET

[www.lebanon.va.gov/  
patients/eligibility.asp](http://www.lebanon.va.gov/patients/eligibility.asp)  
[www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility)  
[www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov)